

What is claimed is:

1. A drum-type laundry machine comprising: /

a drum rotatable about a rotation shaft extending at an angle within a predetermined angular range with respect to a horizontal axis, the drum having an opening formed in a circumference thereof for loading and unloading of laundry;

a housing defining an outer shape of the drum-type laundry machine and accommodating the drum therein, the housing having an inlet opening provided in a top face thereof and permitting access to the opening of the drum for the loading and unloading of the laundry; and

a slide lid which is slidable along the inlet opening for covering and uncovering the inlet opening.

2. A drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the top face of the housing includes an oblique face inclined forwardly downward,

wherein the inlet opening extends from a front portion of the oblique face to a rear portion of the top face,

wherein the slide lid is slid rearward from a front edge of the inlet opening to uncover the inlet opening, and is slid forward to the front edge of the inlet opening to cover the inlet opening.

3. A drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim 2, wherein the top face of the housing further includes another oblique face inclined rearwardly downward, and convexly projects upward so as to have the greatest height 5 at an anteroposteriorly predetermined position.

4. A drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim 3,

wherein the predetermined position is a rearward position,

10 wherein the oblique faces each have a convexly curved surface.

5. A drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the slide lid has a first lid and a second 15 lid,

the drum-type laundry machine further comprising a coupling mechanism for opening and closing the first and second lids in association with each other.

6. A drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim 20 5, further comprising:

a guide member engaged with a side edge of the slide lid for guiding the slide lid in a lid sliding direction; and

a restriction member for restricting displacement 25 of the slide lid in a direction intersecting the lid sliding

direction so as to prevent the side edge of the slide lid from disengaging from the guide member.

7. A drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim 6, wherein the slide lid is bendable in the sliding
5 direction along the inlet opening and the housing.

8. A drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim 7, wherein the slide lid is accommodated in a suspended state in a rear portion of the housing when the slide lid is opened.

10 9. A drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim 8, further comprising a guide surface for guiding the slide lid so as to suspend the slide lid in the rear portion of the housing when the slide lid is opened.

10. A drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim
15 9, wherein the guide surface projects rearwardly of a component disposed within the housing to prevent the slide lid from interfering with the component.

11. A drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim 7, wherein the slide lid comprises a main body, and a
20 flexible sheet member which covers an upper surface of the main body and is bendable in accordance with the bending of the slide lid.

12. A drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim 11, wherein the sheet member is attached to the main body
25 of the slide lid with a predetermined amount of slack

provided in the lid sliding direction.

13. A drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim 5, further comprising a foreign matter intrusion preventing member provided in a gap defined between an upper surface of the slide lid and the housing for preventing a foreign matter from intruding into the rear portion of the housing along the upper surface of the slide lid.

14. A drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim 5, further comprising an electric opening/closing mechanism for electrically opening and closing the slide lid.

15. A drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim 14, further comprising a start button for starting an operation of the drum-type laundry machine,

wherein the electric opening/closing mechanism closes the slide lid in response to pressing of the start button.

16. A drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim 15, further comprising:

an open/close lid provided in the housing to be opened and closed when the laundry is taken into or out of the drum; and

an open/close sensor for detecting whether the open/close lid is closed;

wherein the electric opening/closing mechanism permits the slide lid to be closed when the open/close sensor detects that the open/close lid is closed.

17. A drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim 5 1, further comprising:

a water supply valve which is opened for introducing tap water into the laundry machine; and

a bath water pump which is driven for introducing bath water into the laundry machine;

10 wherein the water supply valve is disposed on one side of a slide lid slidable region where the slide lid is slidable in the lid sliding direction, and the bath water pump is disposed on the other side of the slide lid slidable region.

15 18. A drum-type laundry machine comprising:

a drum rotatable about a rotation shaft extending at an angle within a predetermined angular range with respect to a horizontal axis, the drum having an opening formed in a circumference thereof for loading and unloading 20 of laundry;

a housing defining an outer shape of the drum-type laundry machine and accommodating the drum therein, the housing having an inlet opening provided in a top face thereof and permitting access to the opening of the drum 25 for the loading and unloading of the laundry;

an open/close lid for covering the inlet opening;
biasing means for biasing the open/close lid in a
lid opening direction; and

holding means for holding the open/close lid in a
5 closed state for preventing the open/close lid from being
opened.

19. A drum-type laundry machine comprising:

a drum rotatable about a rotation shaft extending
at an angle within a predetermined angular range with
10 respect to a horizontal axis, the drum having an opening
formed in a circumference thereof for loading and unloading
of laundry;

a housing defining an outer shape of the drum-type
laundry machine and accommodating the drum therein, the
15 housing having an inlet opening provided in a top face
thereof and permitting access to the opening of the drum
for the loading and unloading of the laundry;

an open/close lid for covering the inlet opening;
and

20 biasing means for biasing the open/close lid, the
biasing means being adapted to apply no biasing force to
the open/close lid in a lid opening direction when the
open/close lid is in a closed state and to apply a biasing
force to the open/close lid in the lid opening direction
25 when the open/close lid is opened to a predetermined

position.

20. A drum-type laundry machine comprising:

a drum rotatable about a rotation shaft extending at an angle within a predetermined angular range with respect to a horizontal axis, the drum having an opening formed in a circumference thereof for loading and unloading of laundry;

a housing defining an outer shape of the drum-type laundry machine and accommodating the drum therein, the housing having an inlet opening provided in a top face thereof and permitting access to the opening of the drum for the loading and unloading of the laundry;

a first lid piece pivotally attached along one of opposite edges thereof to the housing for covering a portion of the inlet opening;

a second lid piece pivotally attached to the other edge of the first lid piece for covering the other portion of the inlet opening; and

guide means for guiding an edge of the second lid piece opposite from the first lid piece along the inlet opening.

21. A drum-type laundry machine comprising:

a drum rotatable about a rotation shaft extending at an angle within a predetermined angular range with respect to a horizontal axis, the drum having an opening

formed in a circumference thereof for loading and unloading of laundry;

a housing defining an outer shape of the drum-type laundry machine and accommodating the drum therein, the housing having an inlet opening provided in a top face thereof and permitting access to the opening of the drum for the loading and unloading of the laundry; and

an open/close lid for covering the inlet opening, the open/close lid comprising a plurality of lid pieces connected to one another in a foldable manner, one of the lid pieces being attached to the housing so as to be pivotal in a direction intersecting a lid piece connection direction in which the lid pieces are connected to one another.

22. A drum-type laundry machine comprising:

a drum rotatable about a rotation shaft extending at an angle within a predetermined angular range with respect to a horizontal axis, the drum having an opening formed in a circumference thereof for loading and unloading of laundry;

a housing defining an outer shape of the drum-type laundry machine and accommodating the drum therein, the housing having an inlet opening provided in a top face thereof and permitting access to the opening of the drum for the loading and unloading of the laundry; and

an open/close lid for covering the inlet opening, the open/close lid comprising a first lid piece and a second lid piece connected to each other in a foldable manner, the first lid piece being pivotally attached along a rear edge thereof to the housing in association with a rear edge of the inlet opening;

wherein the first lid piece covers a relatively great portion of the inlet opening and has a relatively great depth;

10 wherein the second lid piece covers a relatively small portion of the inlet opening and has a relatively small depth;

wherein, when the open/close lid is in an open state, the first lid piece projects upward from the top face of the housing, and the second lid piece is folded as extending downward from an upper edge of the first lid piece to a middle portion of the first lid piece.

23. A drum-type laundry machine as set forth in claim 22 further comprising:

20 an outer tub fixedly disposed in the housing and surrounding the drum, the outer tub having an inner opening provided in association with the inlet opening; and

an inner lid pivotally attached along one edge thereof to the outer tub for covering and uncovering the inner opening;

wherein, when the inner lid is in an open state, the inner lid projects upward with an upper edge thereof being in non-overlapping relation with the folded second lid piece.